

TRIBUTE TO JANINA IGIELSKA
AND THE CENTRAL OF POLISH
ORGANIZATIONS OF PASSAIC,
CLIFTON, AND VICINITY

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Janina Igielska and the Central of Polish Organizations of Passaic, Clifton, and Vicinity. On Sunday, October 6, 1996, the Central of Polish Organizations will hold the 60th Annual General Casimir Pulaski Memorial Parade on Fifth Avenue in New York City. Janina Igielska is the newly selected grand marshal of the parade.

Mr. Speaker, the Central of Polish Organizations of Passaic, Clifton and Vicinity is the center for activity in the Polish-American community throughout the area. Janina Igielska was selected as this year's grand marshal for her outstanding contributions to the Polish community.

Mrs. Igielska was born in Pultusk, Poland, where she received her early education. Subsequently, she continued her education at the Szczecin University in the field of economics.

Mrs. Igielska immigrated to the United States in 1970 to pursue a career in education; where, since 1979, she has served as the principal of the Polish Supplementary School of Ada Mickiewicz.

However, Mr. Speaker, Janina Igielska's ties to the Polish community do not end with her teaching in a Polish supplementary school. She is extremely active in the Polish community outside of her occupation. She has been a member of the Polish American Youth Association of Passaic and Vicinity since 1971. In 1972, she also was a delegate to the Polish Supplementary School Council of America [PSSCA], where she has served as their executive vice president since 1974. Currently, she serves as editor of the Polish Teachers Quarterly magazine.

Through her dedication to education, Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Igielska has become a decisive leader in the Polish community. For instance, with the assistance of curator the Reverend Monsignor Jan Podgorny, Mrs. Igielska was the principal organizer of the Artistic Circle in Poland. In 1985, she was also the coorganizer of the First Polish Teachers Convention at the Alliance College in Cambridge Springs, PA.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Igielska is the recipient of many awards; including a medal in 1983 for her social and educational work by the Catholic University of Lublin, Poland; in 1988, a gold medal by the Polish School Association in London, England; a medal from the National Commission of Education-Polish Government Warsaw, Poland; and in 1994, a sash by the Central of Polish Organizations in Passaic for excellence in teaching.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Central of Polish Organizations of Passaic, Clifton and Vicinity for their 60th annual parade and Mrs. Janina Igielska for her tremendous achievements in the Polish community.

TRIBUTE TO THE CREW OF THE
"U.S.S. PITTSBURGH"

HON. WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise today to share with you the story of the U.S.S. *Pittsburgh* as I introduce a House resolution to commemorate the heroic acts of its crew.

In March 1945, the United States—well engaged in World War II—was preparing for an air attack on Okinawa. On the morning of March 19, Task Force 58 launched an offensive attack against Japanese ships in the Inland Sea and at Kure and Kobe.

Later that morning the U.S.S. *Franklin* became the target of an enemy plane that dropped two bombs—striking the *Franklin* and setting it ablaze. The carrier suffered extensive damage as the hanger and flight decks were struck spreading fire to the parked and armed planes on board.

With the entire ship engulfed in flames crew members were forced overboard. Subsequently, the U.S.S. *Santa Fe* and the U.S.S. *Pittsburgh* were dispatched to render aid and assistance to the impaired cruiser and its crew.

In addition to rescuing members abandoned in the water, the U.S.S. *Santa Fe* helped to fend off subsequent air attacks as the U.S.S. *Pittsburgh* approached the flaming cruiser to attach a towline. With the towline in place, and the *Franklin* dead in the water, the *Pittsburgh* engaged in towing the *Franklin* working against an easterly, blowing wind. As the cruiser picked up speed to 6 knots, enemy attacks were still looming.

Nearly 24 hours later, the *Franklin* was able to regain steering control and gradually build up speed to clear the *Pittsburgh* to operate, albeit slowly, on its own accord.

Mr. Speaker, this thumbnail sketch offers a mere glimpse of the tragedy and suffering that occurred as a result of the attack on the morning of March 19, 1945. The outstanding performance and the remarkable and concerted efforts of the three crews saved and the capital ship of the task force—which later earned the distinction of being the only capital ship in naval history that was towed to safety after being disabled in battle.

While the *Franklin* tragically suffered 724 casualties and 265 injuries, the heroic acts of crew members prevented another 300 deaths aboard the *Franklin*. As history unfolded, the U.S.S. *Franklin* has become one of the most decorated crews in U.S. naval history. And deservedly, the U.S.S. *Santa Fe* received a Navy unit commendation for its part in assisting the failing cruiser.

So today, Mr. Speaker, I will introduce a resolution in the House of Representatives to recognize and commemorate the outstanding feat of seamanship performed by the crew of the U.S.S. *Pittsburgh* who—to date—has never been collectively honored for their role in the rescue effort.

Having served in the U.S. Navy, I can attest to the fact that one does not make the commitment to defend this great Nation for the prospects of fame or glory. The consequences of engaging in battle, as the crew members of Task Force 58 learned, are dire and real.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it's only fitting that we take this opportunity, some 51 years later, to

solemnly recall the tragic events off the coast of Japan and to recognize the crew of the U.S.S. *Pittsburgh* for their contribution in assisting the U.S.S. *Franklin*, and to U.S. naval history.

RETIREMENT OF BARBARA REPKO

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated woman from my District in Pennsylvania, Mrs. Barbara Repko. I am pleased to have been asked to participate in a surprise recognition ceremony in honor of her retirement.

Mrs. Repko is retiring after serving for 20 years as the dedicated manager of the Berwick Senior Citizens Center. Although most famously known for its winning high school football team, Mrs. Repko brings another type of recognition to this beautiful borough on the Susquehanna River.

Mr. Speaker, Barbara Repko personifies Pennsylvania values in her caring dedication to her profession. Her diligence on behalf of area seniors is legendary. For 20 years Barbara Repko has run fund-raising drives to benefit the center, and has gone door to door to area businesses in search of their support. This beautiful modern center owes its existence to this outstanding woman and her husband Bill.

Her dedication to the center extends beyond to a financial commitment to area seniors. Seven years ago Bill and Barbara Repko were so dedicated to providing quality care and services to Berwick area seniors that they provided a loan to the Board of Directors of the center so that the center could purchase its own building. This combined with donations of time, additional money and ideas allows this beautiful center to today provide support services to hundreds of local senior citizens.

During Barbara's leadership the facility gained a new kitchen, new roof, air-conditioning and an exercise room with brand new equipment for the well-being of the seniors. The center is one of the finest in the State of Pennsylvania due to Barbara's dedication, forward thinking and financial commitment.

Mr. Speaker, it is not often that I have the honor to pay tribute to such a selfless, caring individual. This woman deserves our recognition and sincere appreciation and I am extremely proud to bring her good deeds to the attention of my colleagues. I know that Mrs. Repko's greatest reward is the love, respect and gratitude of those whose lives she has touched over the last twenty years. I send my very best wishes to her for a long, happy and productive retirement.

RECOGNIZING GE VALLECITOS
NUCLEAR CENTER

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, in an era in which energy resources are increasingly